

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

United States Courts
Southern District of Texas
FILED

JAN 16 2019

David J. Bradley, Clerk of Court

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

EDDIE DOUGLAS AUSTIN, JR.

CRIMINAL NO. 4:16-CR-408

INFORMATION

The United States Attorney charges:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

I. The Fraudulent Scheme

1. From in or about May 2011 through at least May 10, 2017, the defendants and others known and unknown engaged in an unlawful scheme to fraudulently manipulate the market price and demand for various microcap securities, commonly referred to as “penny stocks,” to defraud the public into buying said securities, in order that the defendants and their associates could profit from the sale of stock that they controlled at fraudulently inflated prices.

2. The securities that the defendants and their associates used to engage in this fraudulent scheme include the following:

- a. Onyx Service & Solutions, Inc. (“Onyx”), a company purportedly involved in solar construction projects.
- b. Nova Mining Corp. (“Nova Mining”), a company purportedly involved in developing domestic and international mining claims.
- c. DoMark International, Inc. (“DoMark”), a company purportedly involved in developing consumer electronics.

- d. Chimera Energy Corp. (“Chimera”), a company purportedly involved in developing and licensing energy technology.
- e. Massive Dynamics, Inc. (“Massive Dynamics”), a company purportedly involved in acquiring, developing, and selling communications technology and products.
- f. Solar America Corp. (“Solar America”), a company purportedly involved in commercializing and distributing solar energy products.
- g. BlueFire Equipment Corporation (“BlueFire Equipment”), a company purportedly involved in designing and manufacturing drilling technology.
- h. Puget Technologies, a company purportedly involved in developing products related to marijuana initially, then switched industries in December 2013 and purportedly began developing 3D printing products.
- i. GankIt.com, a company purportedly involved in online auctions.
- j. Horizon Energy Corporation (“Horizon Energy”), a company purportedly involved in acquiring, discovering, and developing oil and gas properties.
- k. NHale, Inc. (“NHale”), a company purportedly involved in electronic cigarette and vaporizer technology.
- l. Valmie Resources Inc. (“Valmie Resources”), a company purportedly involved in developing technology related to unmanned aerial vehicles, also known as drones.

3. During the course of executing the fraudulent scheme, the defendants and their associates engaged in market manipulation schemes known as “matched trades” and “wash sales.”

4. A “matched trade” is an order to buy or sell securities that is entered with knowledge that a matching order on the opposite side of the transaction has been or will be entered for the purpose of: (1) creating a false or misleading appearance of active trading in any publicly traded security; or (2) creating a false or misleading appearance with respect to the market for any such security.

5. A “wash sale” is an order to buy or sell securities resulting in no change of beneficial ownership for the purpose of: (1) creating a false or misleading appearance of active trading in any publicly traded security; or (2) creating a false or misleading appearance with respect to the market for any such security.

6. A “nominee” is a person or company whose name is given as having title to a stock, but who is not the actual owner.

II. Background Concerning Chimera Energy Corp. (“Chimera”)

A. Chimera’s “Sham” Initial Public Offering

7. In or about the summer of 2011, Andrew Farmer met Charles Grob, and Grob agreed to become the Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) of Chimera. Shortly thereafter, on or about August 5, 2011, Grob filed documents to incorporate Chimera and became its first CEO and its sole officer and director.

8. From in or about December 2011 to in or about January 2012, Chimera conducted a sham Initial Public Offering (“IPO”). Farmer, Eddie Austin, Carolyn Austin, Grob, and their associates recruited individuals to act as “straw-investors” in the Chimera IPO in order to make it appear that ownership of the freely tradeable shares of Chimera stock was not concentrated in one person or a group of people, when in truth and fact, the defendants had de facto control of the freely tradeable shares of Chimera stock through the straw-investors.

B. Form 211 Application Process For Microcap Securities Generally

9. Microcap securities, also known as “penny stocks,” generally are characterized by low share prices and little or no analyst coverage. The issuers of microcap securities typically are thinly-capitalized and information about them often is limited. Microcap companies’ stocks are not listed on national stock exchanges, such as the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”); rather, they are usually quoted on other quotation mediums, such as the Over-the-Counter (“OTC”) Bulletin Board, or in the Pink Sheets published by the National Quotation Bureau. Because of the lack of information about microcap securities, when a broker-dealer publishes quotations for a microcap stock, it raises the profile of the security. Thus, published quotations enable persons engaged in microcap fraud to sell the shares to unsuspecting investors at inflated prices.

10. Microcap securities are regulated by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”). Before a broker-dealer can publish a quotation for a microcap security, the broker-dealer must submit an application on Form 211 and obtain prior authorization from FINRA’s OTC Compliance Unit.

11. In addition, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) has published a list of “red flags” that, if detected, a broker-dealer should address before it can publish a quotation of a microcap security. One such red flag is the “concentration of ownership of freely tradeable securities” in one person or a group of people, which the SEC has identified as a “prominent feature of microcap fraud cases.” This red flag is the reason that the defendants had to conceal their involvement in the Chimera IPO by distributing the stock to the 29 straw-investors in order to create the false appearance of diversified ownership.

C. Chimera's Form 211 Application

12. On or about December 22, 2011, Farmer contacted the broker-dealer Pennaluna to request Pennaluna sponsor a Form 211 application for Chimera in order to publish a quotation of Chimera stock.

13. As part of its diligence and compliance process, Pennaluna required Chimera to provide certain information regarding the shareholders and how they were solicited to invest in Chimera. Farmer and Grob responded to the inquiry with information that concealed the facts that the IPO investors were in fact straw-investors for the defendants and their associates, and that ownership of the majority of outstanding, freely tradeable stock of Chimera was therefore concentrated in the hands of the defendants and their associates.

14. On or about January 24, 2012, Pennaluna submitted the Form 211 application to FINRA's OTC Compliance Unit. On or about February 1, 2012, a FINRA compliance examiner sent Pennaluna a letter in which he explained that the Chimera application had been found "deficient" and requested additional information regarding the relationship between Farmer and Chimera.

15. On or about February 3, 2012, Grob submitted Chimera's response to FINRA's deficiency letter to Pennaluna for the purpose of transmitting the response to FINRA. The response continued to conceal the extent of Farmer and the other defendants' involvement in Chimera's IPO and their de facto control over the company and the straw-investors. On or about February 6, 2012, Pennaluna submitted Chimera's response to FINRA.

16. On or about April 10, 2012, FINRA cleared Pennaluna's Form 211 application to publish quotations of Chimera stock.

D. Consolidation of Chimera Stock in the Hands of the Defendants and Their Associates

17. From in or about March 2012 to in or about May 2012, 28 of the 29 straw-investors transferred all of their shares to one of the following seven entities:

- a. Chartered Investments Inc. (“Chartered Investments”), a company owned by Farmer.
- b. Oak Resources Inc. (“Oak Resources”), a company purportedly owned by an individual with initials “L.C.,” who was in fact acting as a nominee for the defendants. Farmer was authorized to conduct transactions in the bank account of Oak Resources.
- c. TransAmerica Trading Inc. (“TransAmerica Trading”), a company owned by Carolyn Austin.
- d. Kylemore Corp. (“Kylemore”), a company purportedly owned by an individual with initials “A.Y.,” who was in fact acting as a nominee for the defendants.
- e. Hillsmere, S.A. (“Hillsmere”), a company purportedly owned by an individual with initials “O.T.,” who was in fact acting as a nominee for the defendants.
- f. Clarent Services Corp. (“Clarent Services”), a company acting as a nominee for the defendants.
- g. Levantera, S.A. (“Levantera”), a company purportedly owned by A.Y., who was in fact acting as a nominee for the defendants.

18. The only straw-investor that did not sell her shares at this time was Farmer’s wife,
A.T.

E. False Promotional Campaign to Fraudulently Inflate the Price of Chimera Stock

19. Beginning in or about July, 2012, the defendants orchestrated a false promotional campaign designed to fraudulently inflate the price of Chimera stock.

20. On or about July 27, 2012, Farmer caused the filing of a Form 8-K with the SEC in which Chimera announced that it had entered into a “License Agreement” with “China Inland Oil Exploration Company” (“China Inland”), purportedly granting Chimera an “exclusive license to develop and commercialize [China Inland’s] cutting edge technologies related to Non-Hydraulic Extraction [(“NHE”)].”

21. Chimera’s purported agreement with China Inland was a sham designed to mislead investors, and Chimera did not have the NHE technology that the defendants and their associates claimed it had.

22. Over the next several months, the defendants and their associates caused Chimera to issue approximately 34 press releases and three additional Forms 8-K that publicized and promoted Chimera’s purported licensing and development of the non-existent NHE technology.

23. While these false statements were being published, the defendants and their associates funded a false advertising campaign for Chimera stock. John Brotherton engaged Crisp Media, an advertising placement firm, to run ads that touted Chimera’s “NEW SAFE FRACKING!” that “USES ZERO WATER!” and urged viewers to “INVEST TODAY.”

24. Brotherton also engaged Marchex, another advertising placement firm, to display text advertising through the Google mobile advertising network. The text that was displayed in these advertisements included statements claiming that Chimera had a “Newly licensed method” that “uses zero water and is environmentally neutral.”

25. Brotherton also engaged Dow Jones & Company, publisher of The Wall Street Journal, MarketWatch, SmartMoney, and Barrons, to display images advertising Chimera on these publications' websites. The images that were displayed touted Chimera's "NEW SAFE FRACKING" method and urged viewers to "INVEST TODAY."

F. The Defendants' Sale of Chimera Stock to the Public at Fraudulently Inflated Prices

26. During the false advertising campaign for Chimera stock, the price of Chimera stock increased dramatically, and the defendants and their associates began to sell their Chimera stock to the public for the benefit of the defendants and members of the conspiracy.

27. Chartered Investments:

- a. From on or about June 29, 2012 to on or about September 27, 2012, Chartered Investments sold approximately 1,148,322 shares of Chimera stock for total proceeds of approximately \$692,554.51.

28. TransAmerica Trading:

- a. From on or about July 30, 2012 to on or about August 23, 2012, TransAmerica Trading sold approximately 2,800,000 shares of Chimera stock for total proceeds of approximately \$3,224,630.87.
- b. From on or about August 10, 2012 to on or about August 30, 2012, TransAmerica Trading transferred \$3,025,000 to Farmer's company Chartered Investments.

29. Oak Resources:

- a. From on or about June 20, 2012 to on or about November 15, 2012, Oak Resources sold approximately 2,212,146 shares of Chimera stock for total proceeds of approximately \$682,229.49.

- b. From on or about August 10, 2012 to on or about November 27, 2012, Oak Resources transferred approximately \$600,000 to Farmer and his company, Chartered Investments.

30. Kylemore:

- a. From on or about August 10, 2012 to September 11, 2012, Kylemore sold approximately 740,000 shares of Chimera stock for total proceeds of approximately \$805,807.99.
- b. On or about September 4, 2012, Kylemore transferred approximately \$1,161,410.00 to Carolyn Austin, through her company, Quovis Investments SA.
- c. On or about September 4, 2012, Kylemore transferred approximately \$497,357.00 to Farmer, through his company, Crimson Ridge Investments Inc.
- d. On or about September 4, 2012, Kylemore transferred approximately \$486,461.00 to Sieck, through his company, Malom (1982) Limited.
- e. On or about October 30, 2012, Kylemore transferred approximately \$250,000.00 to Farmer, through his company, Chartered Investments.

31. Hillsmere:

- a. From on or about July 18, 2012, to on or about October 24, 2012, Hillsmere sold approximately 2,946,500 shares of Chimera stock for total proceeds of approximately \$1,428,905.55.

- b. From on or about August 13, 2012 to on or about October 22, 2012, Hillsmere transferred approximately \$369,949.00 to Sieck, through his company Malom (1982) Limited.
- c. From on or about August 13, 2012, to on or about October 22, 2012, Hillsmere transferred approximately \$369,949.00 to Farmer, through his company Crimson Ridge Investments Inc.
- d. From on or about August 13, 2012, to on or about October 22, 2012, Hillsmere transferred approximately \$991,410.00 to Carolyn Austin, through her company Quovis Intestments SA.

III. Defendants' Use Of Nominees To Conceal Their Ownership Of Securities

32. The defendants recruited individuals to act as "nominees" to be the purported owners of securities, when in truth and fact the defendants were the actual owners of the securities, in order to conceal the involvement of the defendants and their associates from regulators and the investing public.

33. The nominees recruited by the defendants include the following:

- a. An individual with initials "L.C.";
- b. Oak Resources, a company purportedly owned by L.C.;
- c. Dome Capital LLC, a company purportedly owned by L.C.;
- d. An individual with initials "R.M.";
- e. Blackwater Investments Limited, a company purportedly owned by R.M.;
- f. Prestwick Capital, a company purportedly owned by R.M.;
- g. An individual with initials "C.G.";
- h. Riverview Heights LLC, a company purportedly owned by C.G.;

- i. ProForce Investments LLC, a company purportedly owned by C.G.;
- j. Kylemore, a company purportedly owned by A.Y.;
- k. Hillsmere, a company purportedly owned by O.T.;
- l. Clarent Services;
- m. Levantera, a company purportedly owned by A.Y.;
- n. Tuverga Finance Ltd., a company purportedly controlled by individuals with initials "D.M." and "I.D.";

IV. Objects of the Conspiracy

34. The objects of the conspiracy include: enriching the members and associates of the conspiracy by fraudulently manipulating the market price and demand for microcap securities they controlled, and defrauding the public into buying shares of these securities, in order that members and associates of the conspiracy could sell substantial quantities of these securities at fraudulently inflated prices.

IV. Manner and Means of the Conspiracy

35. The manner and means by which the defendants and their co-conspirators sought to accomplish the objects of the conspiracy include the following:

- a. Recruiting individuals to act as "straw-investors" in IPO's for the microcap securities in order to make it appear that ownership of the freely tradeable shares of these securities was not concentrated in one person or a group of people.
- b. Concealing the true nature of the defendants and their associates' involvement in the microcap securities from FINRA, the SEC, and the investing public.
- c. Using nominees to set up brokerage accounts and bank accounts to conceal the involvement of the defendants and their associates from regulators and the investing public.

d. Dividing the freely tradeable shares of the microcap securities among nominees, shell corporations, and other entities that the defendants and their associates controlled in order to evade SEC reporting requirements.

e. Causing the publication and dissemination of false and misleading information about the microcap securities to the public through public filings, press releases, and public advertisements in order to fraudulently inflate the price of the microcap securities.

f. Fraudulently manipulating the price and demand of the microcap securities by engaging in matched trades and wash sales.

g. Selling shares of the microcap securities to the investing public at fraudulently inflated prices.

V. Overt Acts

36. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to effect the objects of the conspiracy, the following overt acts, among others, were committed in the Southern District of Texas and elsewhere:

A. Chimera Energy Corp. (“Chimera”)

37. On or about May 31, 2011, Farmer opened Chase Business Savings account XXX8374 for his company, Chartered Investments.

38. On or about August 5, 2011, Grob incorporated Chimera in the state of Nevada.

39. On or about August 25, 2011, Carolyn Austin opened Wells Fargo Business account XXX3283 for her company, TransAmerica Trading, Inc.

40. On or about December 22, 2011, Farmer contacted Pennaluna by email in order to request that Pennaluna sponsor a Form 211 application to FINRA on behalf of Chimera. In the email, Farmer stated “neither Carolyn or myself are involved in the deal in any way.”

41. On or about December 23, 2011, Farmer transferred \$6,000 from his Iridium Capital account XXXX6635 to L.F. On or about December 22, 2011, L.F. and P.F., Andrew Farmer's father and mother, respectively, purchased 200,000 Chimera shares each from Chimera's IPO, for a total cost of \$6,000.

42. On or about December 23, 2011, Farmer transferred \$6,300 from his Iridium Capital account XXXX6635 to J.R.D. On or about December 23, 2011, J.R.D. and A.D., both married to each other, purchased 200,000 Chimera shares each from Chimera's IPO, for a total cost of \$6,000.

43. On or about December 27, 2011, Farmer transferred \$6,300 from his Iridium Capital account XXXX6635 to B.G. On or about December 27, 2011, B.G. and A.G.H., both married to each other, purchased 200,000 Chimera shares each from Chimera's IPO, for a total cost of \$6,000.

44. On or about January 6, 2012, Farmer transferred \$3,000 from his personal checking account XXX8589 to L.C. through her Oak Resources account XXX8366. On or about January 6, 2012, L.C. purchased 200,000 Chimera shares from Chimera's IPO for a total cost of \$3,000.

45. On or about January 9, 2012, Farmer transferred \$3,050 from his Iridium Capital account XXXX6635 to B.L. On or about January 9, 2012, B.L. purchased 200,000 Chimera shares from Chimera's IPO for a total cost of \$3,000.

46. On or about January 10, 2012, M.D.B. purchased 400,000 shares of Chimera stock from Chimera's IPO for \$6,000. M.D.B. is Carolyn Austin's son and Eddie Austin's step-son.

47. On or about January 11, 2012, A.J.A. purchased 400,000 shares of Chimera stock from Chimera's IPO for \$6,000. A.J.A. is Eddie Austin's son and Carolyn Austin's step-son.

48. On or about January 11, 2012, B.B. and N.A.M each purchased 200,000 shares of Chimera stock from Chimera's IPO for a total cost of \$6,000. B.B. is Carolyn Austin's son, and Eddie Austin's step-son, and B.B. is married to N.A.M.

49. On or about January 10, 2012, R.P.D.A. and N.M.M each purchased 200,000 shares of Chimera stock from Chimera's IPO for a total cost of \$6,000. R.P.D.A. is Eddie Austin's son and Carolyn Austin's step-son, and he is married to N.M.M.

50. On or about January 11, 2012, K.A.M. and J.P.M. each purchased 200,000 shares of Chimera stock from Chimera's IPO for a total cost of \$6,000. K.A.M. is Eddie Austin's daughter and Carolyn Austin's step-daughter, and she is married to J.P.M.

51. On or about January 11, 2012, Eddie Austin emailed Farmer the signed subscription agreements wherein R.P.D.A., N.M.M., K.A.M., and J.P.M. purchased the shares of Chimera stock.

52. On or about January 12, 2012, Farmer transferred \$10,000 from his Iridium Capital account XXXX6635 to K.A.M.

53. On or about January 24, 2012, Farmer and Grob caused a Form 211 application to be submitted to FINRA that concealed the facts that the 29 investors in Chimera's IPO were in fact straw-investors for the defendants and their associates, and that ownership of the majority of outstanding, freely tradeable stock of Chimera was therefore concentrated in the hands of the defendants and their associates.

54. On or about February 1, 2012, FINRA notified Pennaluna that Chimera's Form 211 application was deficient and requested additional information. Among the information requested by FINRA was, "A detailed explanation of the relationship between Andrew Farmer and [Chimera]," and "who solicited investors, [and] how the solicitor knew them." On or about

February 6, 2012, Farmer and Grob caused Chimera's response to be submitted to FINRA, which continued to conceal the facts that the 29 investors in Chimera's IPO were in fact straw-investors for the defendants and their associates, and that ownership of the majority of outstanding, freely tradeable stock of Chimera was therefore concentrated in the hands of the defendants and their associates.

55. On or about June 10, 2012, one of the defendants' associates, M.F., sent an email to Z.J.J. with the subject, "oil company," which stated: "I have a way to make some money. I have a company that makes a device that can blow air into the rock and take out the oil, from hard to reach shale rock and oil sand. They want to make a cooperation contract with a Chinese oil company to try the new device. Really they don't care if they try it or not."

56. On or about June 13, 2012, Z.J.J. sent an email to M.F. with the subject "use #2 as the bckground," which stated: "Pls check the attachment about web page sample made vy [sic] myself." The email included as an attachment a picture entitled "oil.jpg," which purported to be a website for "China Inland Oil Exploration Co. Ltd." ("China Inland").

57. On or about June 28, 2012, M.F. sent an email to Z.J.J. with the subject, "Please sign option agreement." The email included as an attachment a document entitled "Option_Agreement.docx," which purported to be an unsigned "License Agreement" between Chimera and China Inland.

58. On or about June 29, 2012, Z.J.J. sent an email to M.F. with the subject, "Please sign option agreement." The email included as an attachment a document entitled "Option_Agreement.doc," which claimed to be a "License Agreement" between Chimera and China Inland purportedly signed by "Zeng Zong, Director, China Inland Oil Exploration Company."

59. On or about July 27, 2012, M.F. sent an email to Farmer with the subject, “Chermera [*sic*] Option.” The email included as an attachment a document entitled “Chermera Option_Agreement.docx,” which purported to be a “License Agreement” between Chimera and China Inland.

60. On or about July 27, 2012, Farmer caused a Form 8-K to be filed with the SEC that falsely stated Chimera had entered into a “License Agreement” with “China Inland Oil Exploration Company” (“China Inland”), purportedly granting Chimera an “exclusive license to develop and commercialize [China Inland’s] cutting edge technologies related to Non-Hydraulic Extraction.”

61. On or about July 30, 2012, Brotherton, Thomas Massey, and Grob caused a press release to be issued that falsely stated Chimera had “licensed Non-Hydraulic Extraction,” and that Chimera had “put in place their procedure for engineering this new method for mass production, patenting, licensing, and sales.”

62. On or about August 9, 2012, Brotherton, Massey, and Grob caused a press release to be issued that falsely stated Chimera had “executed a Memorandum of Understanding with PEMEX, also known as Petroleos Mexicanos, regarding the utilization of [Chimera]’s revolutionary exothermic Non-Hydraulic Extraction method throughout Latin America.”

63. On or about August 10, 2012, Farmer caused a Form 8-K to be filed with the SEC that included as an exhibit the false August 9, 2012 press release regarding the Memorandum of Understanding with PEMEX.

64. On or about August 10, 2012, Brotherton, Massey, and Grob caused a press release to be issued that falsely stated Chimera management “has been scheduled to directly meet with PEMEX associates in Mexico City beginning this Monday regarding a collaboration for utilizing

[Chimera's] revolutionary exothermic Non-Hydraulic Extraction method throughout Latin America."

65. On or about August 13, 2012, Brotherton, Massey, and Grob caused a press release to be issued that falsely stated Chimera management "arrives in Mexico City this morning for their direct meetings with PEMEX to collaborate on utilizing [Chimera's] revolutionary exothermic Non-Hydraulic Extraction system throughout Latin America."

66. On or about August 20, 2012, Brotherton, Massey, and Grob caused a press release to be issued that falsely stated that Chimera's President, Charles Grob, "has just returned from fruitful meetings in Mexico City, where PEMEX and Chimera have begun to collaborate on utilizing [Chimera's] revolutionary exothermic Non-Hydraulic Extraction system throughout Latin America."

67. On or about August 28, 2012, Farmer caused a Form 8-K to be filed with the SEC that falsely stated: "During our recent visit to PEMEX we discussed engineering plans to utilize our technology on 3 wells chosen by PEMEX," and "We have an executed Memorandum of Understanding with PEMEX related to our Non-Hydraulic Fracturing technology."

68. On or about September 11, 2012, Brotherton, Massey, and Grob caused a press release to be issued that falsely stated Chimera management "has formulated a 90-day schedule for the first deployment of Non-Hydraulic Shale Oil Extraction in the Chicontepic Basin of Mexico."

69. On or about October 2, 2012, M.F. sent Scott Sieck an email requesting money purportedly owed to him, including \$15,000 to be paid for "China Inland Oil" on behalf of Chimera. On or about the same day, Sieck responded to M.F. by email: "Ok...andrew mentioned

one payment went to you yesterday and another was set for today...give me an update at end of day...if needed I will front you so you don't have to worry."

70. On or about October 10, 2012, Brotherton and Massey caused a press release to be issued that falsely stated "Chimera Energy Corp and PEMEX Complete First Collaboration at Chicontepic Basin" and "the first activities in Poza Rica, Mexico between the two companies have been completed with very good results," and "Chimera Energy Corp's Non-Hydraulic Extraction system is an unprecedented shale oil extraction system designed to safely and economically replace hydraulic fracking . . . without negative environmental impacts."

71. On or about October 10, 2012, Farmer caused a Form 8-K to be filed with the SEC that included as an exhibit a letter from Chimera's then-CEO to Chimera's shareholders that falsely stated: "Over the past several months we have worked tirelessly with our contacts at PEMEX to finalize the Master Service Agreement and get our technology into the field for testing," and "We have executed [*sic*] Memorandum of Understanding with PEMEX related to our Non-Hydraulic Fracturing technology."

72. On or about October 15, 2012, Farmer and Grob caused a letter to be submitted to the FINRA Office of Fraud Detection and Market Intelligence that (1) concealed the facts that Chimera's purported license agreement with China Inland Oil Exploration Company was a sham and that Chimera did not have the NHE technology it claimed to have, and falsely stated (2) Chimera and its consultants "are working diligently" with PEMEX towards an onsite demonstration of the NHE technology, and (3) Chimera "is still in the process of negotiating the Master Service Agreement with PEMEX relating to the technology."

73. From on or about June 29, 2012, to on or about September 27, 2012, Farmer, through his company Chartered Investments, sold 1,148,322 shares of Chimera stock for total gross proceeds of \$692,554.51.

74. From on or about July 30, 2012, to on or about August 23, 2012, Carolyn Austin, through her company TransAmerica Trading, sold 2,800,000 shares of Chimera stock for total gross proceeds of \$3,224,630.87.

75. From on or about August 10, 2012, to on or about August 30, 2012, Carolyn Austin, through her company TransAmerica Trading transferred \$3,025,000 from account XXXX3283 to Farmer, through his company Chartered Investments.

76. From on or about July 31, 2012, to on or about October 11, 2012, Scott Sieck sold 45,500 shares of Chimera stock for total proceeds of \$37,557.40.

77. From on or about June 20, 2012 to on or about November 15, 2012, the defendants caused the sale of 2,212,146 shares of Chimera stock using brokerage accounts in the name of Oak Resources for total gross proceeds of \$682,229.49.

78. From on or about August 10, 2012, to on or about November 27, 2012, the defendants caused the transfer of approximately \$600,000.00 from Oak Resources account XXXX8366 to Farmer's personal account XXXX8589 and Farmer's Chartered Investments account XXXX8374.

79. From on or about August 10, 2012 to September 11, 2012, the defendants caused the sale of 740,000 shares of Chimera stock using a brokerage account in the name of Kylemore for total proceeds of approximately \$805,807.99.

80. From on or about July 31, 2012, to on or about October 24, 2012, the defendants caused the sale of 2,946,500 shares of Chimera stock using a brokerage account in the name of Hillsmere for total proceeds of approximately \$1,428,905.55.

81. From in or about June 2011 to in or about December 2012, Farmer, through his companies Iridium and Chartered, paid Massey, through his company Fairwinds Consulting, approximately \$338,000.00 as compensation for Massey's work in furtherance of the conspiracy.

B. Onyx Service & Solutions, Inc. ("Onyx")

82. From on or about September 21, 2011 to on or about October 5, 2011, Farmer, through his company Chartered Investments, sold 200,000 shares of Onyx stock for total gross proceeds of \$498,810.94.

83. From on or about September 27, 2011 to on or about February 17, 2012, Sieck sold 14,848 shares of Onyx stock for total gross proceeds of \$25,013.45.

84. From on or about September 29, 2011 to on or about November 15, 2011, Sieck, through his company Malom (1982) Limited, sold 51,107 shares of Onyx stock for total gross proceeds of \$112,634.45.

85. From on or about October 13, 2011 to on or about November 18, 2011, Farmer, through his company Cobalt Equity Management, sold 23,195 shares of Onyx stock for total gross proceeds of \$45,869.55.

86. From on or about October 5, 2011 to on or about January 24, 2012, Farmer's wife, A.T., sold 152,331 shares of Onyx stock for total gross proceeds of \$386,873.44.

87. From on or about December 2, 2011 to on or about January 30, 2012, the defendants caused the sale of 965,988 shares of Onyx stock using a brokerage account in the name of Hillsmere for total gross proceeds of \$1,432,318.11.

C. Nova Mining Corp. (“Nova Mining”)

88. From on or about November 8, 2011 to on or about September 20, 2012, Farmer, through his company Chartered Investments, sold 1,151,493 shares of Nova Mining stock for total gross proceeds of \$959,003.85.

89. From on or about January 16, 2012, to on or about August 31, 2012, the defendants caused the sale of 998,150 shares of Nova Mining stock using a brokerage account in the name of Hillsmere for total gross proceeds of \$1,414,395.49.

90. From on or about June 20, 2012 to on or about December 7, 2012, Sieck sold 21,415 shares of Nova Mining stock for total gross proceeds of \$7,126.34.

D. DoMark International, Inc. (“DoMark”)

91. From on or about June 3, 2011 to on or about April 26, 2012, Sieck sold 92,905 shares of DoMark stock for total gross proceeds of \$143,306.75.

92. From on or about March 14, 2012 to on or about April 30, 2012, Sieck, through his company Malom (1982) Limited, sold 2,864,837 shares of DoMark stock for total gross proceeds of \$4,103,282.03.

93. From on or about April 2, 2012 to on or about May 3, 2012, Farmer, through his company Chartered Investments, sold 1,030,400 shares of DoMark stock for total gross proceeds of \$1,312,748.86.

94. From on or about May 9, 2012 to on or about May 25, 2012, Massey sold 275,000 shares of DoMark stock for total gross proceeds of \$788,513.69.

95. On or about May 9, 2012, an individual with initials B.B., who is Carolyn Austin’s son, and Eddie Austin’s step-son, sold 25,000 shares of DoMark stock for total gross proceeds of \$72,956.23.

E. Massive Dynamics, Inc. (“Massive Dynamics”)

96. From on or about September 24, 2012 to on or about March 27, 2013, Farmer, through his company Chartered Investments, sold 2,375,000 shares of Massive Dynamics stock for total gross proceeds of \$2,228,426.46.

97. From on or about September 24, 2012 to on or about January 14, 2013, Farmer, through his company Cobalt Equity Management, sold 107,940 shares of Massive Dynamics stock for total gross proceeds of \$171,136.67.

98. From on or about September 11, 2012 to on or about April 30, 2013, Carolyn Austin, through her company TransAmerica Trading, sold 2,185,000 shares of Massive Dynamics stock for total gross proceeds of \$666,064.73.

99. From on or about September 25, 2012 to on or about April 22, 2013, the defendants caused the sale of 2,513,800 shares of Massive Dynamics stock using a brokerage account in the name of Hillsmere for total gross proceeds of \$2,137,669.06.

100. From on or about December 21, 2012 to on or about April 19, 2013, Sieck sold 22,468 shares of Massive Dynamics stock for total gross proceeds of \$15,381.91.

101. From on or about January 17, 2013 to on or about April 25, 2013, the defendants caused the sale of 2,315,000 shares of Massive Dynamics stock using a brokerage account in the name of Levantera for total gross proceeds of \$1,159,518.92.

102. From on or about September 16, 2013 to on or about October 1, 2013, Massey sold 1,150,000 shares of Massive Dynamics stock for total gross proceeds of \$55,130.70.

103. On or about September 24, 2013, B.B. sold 100,000 shares of Massive Dynamics stock for total gross proceeds of \$4,144.22.

F. Solar America Corp. (“Solar America”)

104. From on or about November 20, 2012 to on or about March 25, 2013, Farmer, through his company Chartered Investments, sold 508,392 shares of Solar America stock for total gross proceeds of \$327,137.25.

105. From on or about February 20, 2013 to on or about May 13, 2013, the defendants caused the sale of 812,500 shares of Solar America stock using a brokerage account in the name of Hillsmere for total gross proceeds of \$203,515.60.

106. From on or about February 26, 2013 to on or about March 5, 2013, the defendants caused the sale of 156,500 shares of Solar America stock using a brokerage account in the name of Kylemore for total gross proceeds of \$112,889.42.

G. BlueFire Equipment Corporation (“BlueFire Equipment”)

107. From on or about June 24, 2013 to on or about August 12, 2013, the defendants caused the sale of 1,600,000 shares of BlueFire Equipment stock for total gross proceeds of approximately \$1,011,487.71, using a brokerage account in the name of Blackwater Investments.

108. From on or about July 5, 2013 to on or about August 19, 2013, the defendants caused the transfer of approximately \$980,876.55 from Blackwater Investments to the defendants and their associates in the following manner:

- a. \$35,000 to Farmer through his company, Chartered Investments;
- b. \$725,000 to B.B. through his company, Spot Marketing LLC;
- c. \$90,000 to an associate of the defendants with initials D.P. personally, and through his company, AFP Management;
- d. \$95,000 to an associate of the defendants with initials R.H., through his company, Mainstream Strategy Group;

e. \$35,876.55 to Sieck through his company, Meridian Investment Group;

109. From on or about July 10, 2013 to on or about September 30, 2013, the defendants caused the sale of 1,302,315 shares of BlueFire Equipment stock using a brokerage account in the name of Hillsmere for total gross proceeds of \$692,952.70.

110. On or about July 15, 2013, Sieck sold 6,250 shares of BlueFire Equipment stock for total gross proceeds of \$3,630.00.

H. Puget Technologies

111. From on or about August 8, 2013 to on or about May 2, 2014, the defendants caused the sale of 2,000,000 shares of Puget Technologies stock for total gross proceeds of \$849,295.52, using a brokerage account in the name of ProForce Investments. These funds were later transferred to the defendants and their associates as described below in paragraph 138.

112. From on or about August 13, 2013 to on or about April 2, 2014, the defendants caused the sale of 2,000,000 shares of Puget Technologies stock for total gross proceeds of \$1,673,192.60, using a brokerage account in the name of Blackwater Investments.

113. From on or about October 16, 2013 to on or about October 29, 2014, the defendants caused the transfer of approximately \$1,344,500.00 from Blackwater Investments to the defendants and their associates in the following manner:

- a. \$154,500 to Sieck through his company, Meridian Investment Group;
- b. \$830,000 to B.B. through his company, Spot Marketing LLC;
- c. \$182,500 to R.H. through his company, Mainstream Strategy Group;
- d. \$157,500 to D.P. through his company, AFP Management;
- e. \$20,000 to Massey through his company, Constant Consulting;

114. From on or about September 25, 2013 to on or about October 11, 2013, the defendants caused the sale of 89,100 shares of Puget Technologies stock using a brokerage account in the name of Hillsmere for total gross proceeds of \$132,290.21.

115. From on or about October 1, 2013 to on or about January 16, 2014, Sieck sold 4,800 shares of Puget Technologies stock for total gross proceeds of \$5,993.50.

116. From on or about November 13, 2013 to on or about May 20, 2014, the defendants caused the sale of 4,000,000 shares of Puget Technologies stock for total gross proceeds of \$2,323,657.23, using a brokerage account in the name of Oak Resources.

I. Gankit.com

117. From on or about November 21, 2013 to on or about February 26, 2014, the defendants caused the sale of 1,350,000 shares of Gankit.com stock for total gross proceeds of \$1,384,929.11, using a brokerage account in the name of ProForce Investments. These funds were later transferred to the defendants and their associates as described below in paragraph 138.

118. From on or about February 3, 2014 to on or about April 10, 2014, the defendants caused the sale of 107,323 shares of Gankit.com stock for total gross proceeds of \$49,358.51, using a brokerage account in the name of Oak Resources.

J. Horizon Energy Corporation (“Horizon Energy”)

119. On or about August 5, 2013, Farmer, through his company Chartered Investments, sold 991,608 shares of Horizon Energy stock for total gross proceeds of \$35,086.36.

120. From on or about October 21, 2013 to on or about April 7, 2014, Sieck sold 128,800 shares of Horizon Energy stock for total gross proceeds of \$45,041.82.

121. From on or about April 21, 2014 to on or about September 3, 2014, Farmer sold 728,458 shares of Horizon Energy stock for total gross proceeds of \$140,670.31.

122. On or about March 20, 2014, the defendants caused the sale of 600,000 shares of Horizon Energy stock for total gross proceeds of \$201,821.03, using a brokerage account in the name of ProForce Investments. These funds were later transferred to the defendants and their associates as described below in paragraph 138.

123. From on or about April 7, 2014 to on or about October 15, 2014, the defendants caused the sale of 2,325,000 shares of Horizon Energy stock for total gross proceeds of \$212,924.85, using a brokerage account in the name of Blackwater Investments.

124. From September 19, 2014 to October 29, 2014, the defendants caused the transfer of approximately \$145,000.00 from Blackwater Investments to the defendants and their associates in the following manner:

- a. \$100,000 to B.B. through his company, Spot Marketing LLC;
- b. \$25,000 to Farmer through his company, Teton Global LLC;
- c. \$20,000 to D.P. through his company, AFP Management;

K. NHale, Inc. (“NHale”)

125. From on or about July 7, 2014 to on or about December 19, 2014, the defendants caused the sale of 1,371,177 shares of NHale stock for total gross proceeds of \$793,352.59, using a brokerage account in the name of Oak Resources.

126. From on or about November 11, 2014 to on or about December 26, 2014, Farmer sold 148,000 shares of NHale stock for total gross proceeds of \$57,285.31.

L. Valmie Resources, Inc. (“Valmie Resources”)

127. From on or about December 8, 2014, to on or about June 14, 2016, Farmer sold 126,560 shares of Valmie Resources stock for total gross proceeds of \$118,844.89.

128. From on or about December 12, 2014 to on or about May 28, 2015, the defendants caused the sale of 560,588 shares of Valmie Resources stock for total gross proceeds of \$1,133,781.83, using brokerage accounts in the name of Blackwater Investments.

129. From March 2, 2015 to July 30, 2015, the defendants caused the transfer of approximately \$1,390,500.00 from Blackwater Investments to the defendants and their associates in the following manner:

- a. \$340,000 to B.B. through his company, Spot Marketing LLC;
- b. \$575,000 to Farmer through his company, Teton Global LLC;
- c. \$107,500 to D.P. through his company, AFP Management;
- d. \$163,000 to Massey through his company, Fairwinds Consulting LLC;
- e. \$205,000 to Sieck through his company, Meridian Investment Group;

130. On or about March 12, 2015, the defendants caused the sale of 1,700 shares of Valmie Resources stock for total gross proceeds of \$3,403.01, using a brokerage account in the name of Oak Resources.

131. From on or about April 27, 2016 to on or about June 14, 2016, the defendants caused the sale of 341,416 shares of Valmie Resources stock for total gross proceeds of \$205,450.05, using a brokerage account in the name of Dome Capital.

132. From on or about May 21, 2015 to on or about May 28, 2015, the defendants caused the sale of 57,068 shares of Valmie Resources stock for total gross proceeds of \$39,844.82, using a brokerage account in the name of Prestwick Capital.

133. On or about May 28, 2015, the defendants caused the transfer of approximately \$40,000.00 from Prestwick Capital to Sieck through his company, Meridian Investment Group.

134. From on or about May 20, 2016 to on or about June 13, 2016, the defendants caused the sale of 1,000,000 shares of Valmie Resources stock for total gross proceeds of \$591,512.93, using a brokerage account in the name of Riverview Heights.

135. From on or about June 6, 2016 to on or about June 17, 2016, the defendants caused the transfer of approximately \$382,000.00 from Riverview Heights to the defendants and their associates in the following manner:

- a. \$142,000 to Brotherton through his company, Frigate Enterprises;
- b. \$90,000 to B.B. through his company, Spot Marketing LLC;
- c. \$100,000 to Farmer through his company, Noblewood Investments;
- d. \$50,000 to Farmer through his company, Teton Global LLC;

136. From on or about August 25, 2016 to on or about May 4, 2017, the defendants caused the sale of 2,632,854 shares of Valmie Resources stock for total gross proceeds of \$1,832,413.26, using a brokerage account in the name of Tuverga Finance Ltd.

M. ProForce Investments, LLC Money Transfers

137. As described above, from on or about August 8, 2013 to on or about May 2, 2014, the defendants used a brokerage account in the name of ProForce Investments to cause the sale of stock in the companies Puget Technologies, Gankit.com, and Horizon Energy for total gross proceeds of \$2,436,045.66.

138. From on or about October 4, 2013 to on or about May 9, 2014, the defendants caused the transfer of approximately \$2,560,000.00 from ProForce Investments to the defendants and their associates in the following manner:

- a. \$2,425,000 to B.B. through his company, Spot Marketing LLC;
- b. \$15,000 to R.H. through his company, Mainstream Strategy Group;

- c. \$25,000 to Massey through his company, Constant Consulting LLC;
- d. \$95,000 to Sieck through his company, Meridian Investment Group;

COUNT ONE
(Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, 18 U.S.C. § 371)

139. Paragraphs 1 through 138 of this Information are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

140. From in or about May 2011 and continuing through at least in or about May 10, 2017, in the Southern District of Texas and elsewhere, the defendant,

EDDIE DOUGLAS AUSTIN, JR.,

knowingly and willfully conspired and agreed with Andrew Ian Farmer, Thomas Galen Massey, Carolyn Price Austin, John David Brotherton, Scott Russell Sieck, Charles Earl Grob, Jr., and others known and unknown, to commit offenses against the United States, to wit: wire fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343, that is to devise and intend to devise, with intent to defraud, a scheme and artifice to defraud, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and to transmit and cause to be transmitted, by means of wire communication in interstate or foreign commerce, writings and signals for the purpose of executing the scheme and artifice, and at least one conspirator did at least one overt act to effect the object of the conspiracy, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371.

NOTICE OF CRIMINAL FORFEITURE

28 U.S.C. § 2461(c); 18 U.S.C. §§ 981(a)(1)(C) & 982(a)(2)

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c) and 18 U.S.C. §§ 981(a)(1)(C) and 982(a)(2), the United States gives notice to the defendant,

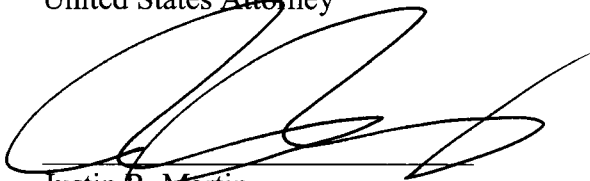
EDDIE DOUGLAS AUSTIN, JR.,

that in the event of conviction of the offense charged in Count 1 of this Information, the United States intends to seek forfeiture of all property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to such offenses.

Money Judgment and Substitute Assets

The United States intends to seek the imposition of a money judgment against the defendant. In the event that a condition listed in 21 U.S.C. § 853(p) exists, the United States will seek to forfeit any other property of the defendant in substitution up to the total value of the property subject to forfeiture.

RYAN K. PATRICK
United States Attorney

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin R. Martin', is written over a horizontal line.

Justin R. Martin
Michael Chu
Assistant United States Attorneys